

419 East Water Street
Cannon Falls, MN 55009
December 9, 2004

Ms. Kathleen D. Sheehy
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings
Suite 1700
100 Washington Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Ms. Sheehy,

I am a resident of Cannon Falls, and am writing to express my opposition to the proposed new electric generating facility in the city (EQB Docket No. 04-85-PPS-CannonFalls EC). First, I am baffled as to why this is the first I've heard of this proposed facility. I am an informed citizen and read the local paper regularly, including city council and school board minutes. I hear that this has been in the planning since 2001. Why haven't the citizens heard about this before? Shouldn't there have been public hearings scheduled much earlier in the process? It seems like there has been deliberate secrecy to keep the residents of the community in the dark.

Second, I'm baffled about why this area would even be considered for such a facility. The Cannon Valley area has many beautiful nature areas including the Cannon River, the Maltby Nature Preserve, the nature areas along the Cannon Valley Bike Trail, and many different recreational parks. Our area is located down in a valley. If you drive south on Hwy. 52 and approach Cannon Falls, the first thing you notice about the area is how beautiful the valley and rolling hills are. I can't imagine how awful it would look to approach the area and see it scarred with two looming 75 foot high smoke stacks. This area attracts many tourists in the summer to canoe the river and ride on the bike trail because of the beauty of the area; this facility would change the view of the landscape in a detrimental way.

Third, this is a family centered community with many children, adults and elderly. I am deeply concerned about the emissions and pollution coming from this plant. We have many farms in the area with horses and livestock which could be potentially harmed from these emissions. There could be a possibility of pollution settling from the emissions and contaminating the soil of the farmland. When responding to concerns about emissions from the smokestacks, Frank Sarduy of Inergy explained that sulfur levels in fuel have gone down in recent years, but they will still be present. Even a small amount would be detrimental to the environment in this area. I have two children in the elementary school, and I would be greatly concerned about the air quality and their health while this plant would be operating.

Cannon Falls has an area zoned for industrial park uses, but it is neighboring near many residential homes. It is extremely close to neighborhoods in the city. It is not located far enough away from our residential areas. This is just not an acceptable sight for this facility.

Fourth, in today's Cannon Falls Beacon (12/9/04), it states that both the school district and Goodhue County are opposed to this project. I do not see a single benefit for our community. No amount of money is worth damaging the landscape, polluting our air and soil, and ruining the community's reputation of a beautiful recreational area to visit.

Fifth, the newspaper reported the language in the Minnesota Statute states their permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government. Do we as community residents have any say so regarding this facility? Does the city council have any say so in this matter? It seems like this project has been developed in secrecy. If this process truly began in 2001, Xcel Engery or Invenergy should have been informing the residents in our community of their proposed plans sometime in the past three years. The public hearing that was held on December 1st should have been held much earlier. Citizens have a right to be informed, and we should have a right to oppose this project for the good of the community.

I see no benefits to this facility in our area. I see many problems which will affect our community in a detrimental way. This facility will be providing no local jobs. I understand they will not be hiring local or even Minnesota contractors to build the facilities. I am opposed to this facility 100%. I will be encouraging others in the community to speak up against this as well, but apparently we are only given until Dec. 13th to respond, which isn't much time. Thank you for listening to my concerns. I can be reached at (507)263-4722 if you have any questions for me.

Sincerley,

Anne Conzemius-Anderson